

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,744 B2); rejected claims 9, 10, 14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama in view of Hedrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,783,862 B2); rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama in view of Higashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,365 B2, hereafter "Higashi"); and rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuyama in view of Fitzsimmons et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0094839 A1). The Examiner allowed claims 1-6, and further indicated that claims 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 12 and cancelled claims 8-11. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable material.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. However, to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 7. Amended claim 7 includes subject matter as set forth in cancelled claim 11, which was indicated by the Examiner as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 12 has been amended to change its dependence from claim 11 to claim 7, and thus claim 12 is also allowable at least due to its dependence from claim 7. Furthermore, claims 14-20 all respectively depend from claim 7, and these claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependences. Applicants have cancelled claims 8-10, rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the respective rejections of claim 7 and claims 14-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the Amendments to the Claims. Applicants further submit that pending claims 1-7 and 12-20 are now in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants therefore request favorable action in the form of issuance of a Notice of Allowance.


Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By:  Reg. No. 33,921

 Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744